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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant asserts that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 4, 7-21 are pending in the application.

Claim 4 has been amended.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicant reserves all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

New claims 7-21 have been added in order to further define what the Applicant considers to be the present invention. Applicant respectfully asserts that no new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 2. Except for replacing "both parts" with "said first and second structural elements" in the claim for clarification, claim 4 has the same scope as previously presented.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is now in condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIMS

While continuing to traverse the Examiner's rejections, Applicant has chosen to cancel claims 1-3, 5 and 6, and add new claims 7-21 in order to more clearly define the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention.

New claims 7-14 are directed to plug and socket combinations described in the present application, and remove some unnecessary and vague details in cancelled claims 1-3, 5 and 6. The socket and plug combination of independent claim 7 includes, inter alia, claim element a) a socket with two or more spaced apart hollow concentric receptacles, where the receptacles are insulated from each other and have respective recesses which including conductive inserts; and claim element b) a revolvable plug which has two or more conductive prong rings that are positioned to be engagable with the concentric receptacles of the socket. Neither of these two claim elements are taught, described or suggested, alone or in combination, by any of the cited references, or by any combination of the cited references.

New independent claim 15 is directed separately to the socket as described above. A socket with these features is not taught or suggested by any of the prior art documents on record, or any combination thereof.

New independent claim 17 is directed separately to the plug as described above. A plug with these features is not taught or suggested by any of the prior art documents on record, or any combination thereof.

Independent claims 7, 15 and 17 are patentable over all the art and combinations thereof cited by the Examiner, as discussed above. Furthermore claims 8-14, 16 and 18-21 depend from, directly or indirectly, claims 7, 15 and 17, and therefore include all the limitations of these claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 8-14, 16 and 18-21 are likewise patentable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allows claims 7-21.

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Applicant respectfully asserts that the new claims add no new matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Rendano in view of art referred to by the Examiner as admitted prior art (APA), Larkin, Ellis, De widt and Person. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 6.

Applicant is responding to the Examiner's §103 rejections in as much as they apply to new claims 7-14, which partly correspond to the subject matter claimed by cancelled claims 1-3, 5 and 6.

An obviousness rejection requires a teaching or a suggestion by the relied upon prior art of all the elements of a claim (M.P.E.P. §2142). Since the cited references do not teach or suggest all the elements of new independent claim 7, the Examiner fails to establish a prima facie showing that the Rendano, APA, Larkin, Ellis, De widt and Person references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest every feature of claim 7.

Regarding new independent claim 7, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established. Applicant asserts that none of Rendano nor APA, Larkin, Ellis, De widt and Person, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests, at least a socket having two or more spaced apart hollow concentric receptacles which are insulated from each other and have respective recesses that include conductive inserts, as required by independent claim 7. Furthermore, Applicant asserts that none of Rendano, APA, Larkin, Ellis, De widt and Person, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests, at least a plug having two or more conductive prong rings that are positioned to be engagable with concentric receptacles in the socket as described above, as required by independent claim 7. It would not have been obvious and the Examiner does not suggest that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of filing the current

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application, to include such a socket and plug in Rendano et al. Thus, no combinations of Rendano, APA, Larkin, Ellis, De widt and Person renders obvious the invention recited in claim 7.

Furthermore, regarding claim 7, Applicant asserts that it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of filing the application to have used elements from six separate references, namely: Rendano, APA, Larkin, Ellis, De widt and Person, as combined by the Examiner, to teach or suggest all the elements as recited in claim 7. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits it improper to combine the apparatuses of these references, respectively describing different devices with different structures, being used for different functions and uses, and which were published during significantly different time periods, for example, in 1943, 1954, 1955, 1964, 1974, and 1984.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Appleton in view of Larkin, De widt and Person. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 5 and 6.

Applicant is responding to the Examiner's §103 rejections in as much as they apply to new claims 7-14, which partly correspond to the subject matter claimed by cancelled claims 1, 5 and 6.

An obviousness rejection requires a teaching or a suggestion by the relied upon prior art of all the elements of a claim (M.P.E.P. §2142). Since the cited references do not teach or suggest all the elements of new independent claim 7, the Examiner fails to establish a prima facie showing that the Appleton, Larkin, De widt and Person references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest every feature of claim 7.

Regarding new independent claim 7, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established. Applicant asserts that none of Appleton, Larkin, De widt and Person, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests at least a socket having two or more spaced apart hollow concentric receptacles which are insulated from each other and have respective recesses that include conductive inserts, as

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required by independent claim 7. Furthermore, Applicant asserts that none of Appleton, Larkin, De widt and Person, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests, at least a plug having two or more conductive prong rings that are positioned to be engagable with concentric receptacles in the socket as described above, as required by independent claim 7. It would not have been obvious and the Examiner does not suggest that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of filing the current application, to include such a socket and plug in Appleton. Thus, no combinations of Appleton, Larkin, De widt and Person renders obvious the invention recited in claim 7.

Furthermore, regarding claim 7, the Applicant asserts that it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of filing the application, to have used elements from four separate references, namely: Appleton, Larkin, De widt and Person, as combined by the Examiner, to teach or suggest all the elements as recited in claim 7. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits it improper to combine the apparatuses of these references, respectively describing different devices with different structures, being used for different functions and uses, and which were published during significantly different time periods.

CONCLUSION

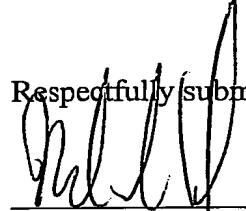
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content, or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

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Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 05-0649.

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